



Rebuild Iowa Office

Governor Chester J. Culver
Lt. Governor Patty Judge, RIO Executive Director

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the Rebuild Iowa Office?

The Rebuild Iowa Office is a state agency, with legal authority granted to it by the Governor in his June 27, 2008, Executive Order 7.

MISSION: The RIO will lead the State of Iowa's efforts to rebuild safer, stronger and smarter in the wake of the 2008 severe storms and catastrophic flooding.

VISION: We envision a resilient Iowa that will be safe, sustainable and economically strong for its people, reaffirming its ties to the land, rivers, environment and rich cultural history.

2. What does the RIO do?

The RIO has been given authority in a variety of critical areas, including the following: coordinating state activities concerning the rebuilding effort; securing funding and other resources needed for the recovery and establishing priorities and disbursement guidelines for any such funds received; establishing federal and state legislative agendas associated with the recovery effort; establishing principles and policies for redevelopment; establishing timelines and benchmarks associated with the recovery effort; providing opportunities for public and business input; ensuring transparency in the recovery process; and speaking with one voice on behalf of all of the State of Iowa, to include advocating for the resources necessary to spur recovery and communicating progress, status and needs of the recovery to officials, community advocates and the public. The RIO is supported by a professional staff drawn primarily from existing state agency personnel to allow it to achieve its mission, vision, goals and objectives. Throughout its initiatives, the RIO is committed to a recovery and rebuilding process that is fair and equitable to everyone.

3. What is the Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission?

The Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission is a 15-member non-partisan commission, appointed by the Governor of Iowa. The RIAC was established in the same Executive Order that established the RIO. The members of the RIAC assist the RIO, and through it the Governor, in providing the vision, creativity and leadership to identify, prioritize and address the short- and long-term issues of recovery. As an advisory body, the RIAC has no direct legal authority, however the Commission is charged with: recommending policy to facilitate long-term recovery in the state; making recommendations to the RIO and overseeing their activities; and assisting with the identification of strategic issues and broad-based recovery needs and priorities. Members of the Commission will also serve as task force chairs for the nine RIO recovery task forces, helping to facilitate dialogue on complex recovery issues and make recommendations in focused issue areas.



Rebuild Iowa Office

Governor Chester J. Culver
Lt. Governor Patty Judge, RIO Executive Director

4. How were the commissioners chosen?

Governor Culver selected the commissioners because their background, skills and experience would be beneficial to the efforts of the Rebuild Iowa Office and the state's recovery process.

5. What are the nine task forces?

The following nine task forces have been established under Executive Order 7:

- Housing
- Infrastructure and Transportation
- Economic and Workforce Development
- Public Health and Health Care
- Agriculture and Environment
- Education
- Floodplain Management and Hazard Mitigation
- Cultural Heritage and Records Retention
- Long-term Recovery Planning

The initial task force activities include:

- Fact-gathering and identification of best practices.
- Community outreach.
- Public education.
- The preparation of public reports and development of recommendations of recovery-related policies and priorities.

6. How can I get involved in the process and provide my input?

"Speak Up Iowa!" is a public outreach effort that gives Iowans the opportunity to voice their ideas and vision for rebuilding the state following the 2008 severe storms and flooding. The information and responses provided at the listening sessions will be included in the considerations and discussion of the Rebuild Iowa Office and Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission.

At the listening sessions, residents will be asked to take a forward-thinking and big-picture approach when brainstorming ways to address long-term recovery efforts. Residents should ask themselves how they would like their communities to look 10, 15 or 20 years from now. Public input will be gathered at the listening sessions via nine stations, representing each of the nine recovery task forces.

In addition to these public meetings, the RIO is reaching out to residents via the Internet and other meetings and recreational events being held across the state. Iowans can submit their input at any time, day or night, by filling out the public input survey on the RIO Web site at www.rio.iowa.gov.